



Preparedness Tips for Your Media Devices

The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) has prepared the following tips for consideration in assuring that California is ready for disasters and emergencies. Cal EMA is a partner in the [Commercial Mobile Alert System](#) (CMAS) technology - a powerful public safety tool that allows emergency management officials to rapidly disseminate warnings and safety information via text alerts to wireless phones based on their specified locations.

Before an Event

- Once disaster warnings are issued, charge wireless phone batteries as soon as possible.
- Have additional charged batteries, car-charger adapters or solar chargers readily accessible.
- Keep phones, laptops, PDAs, batteries, chargers and other equipment in a dry, accessible location. Placing them in a sealable, plastic bag is recommended.
- Program the following into your device - a list of emergency phone numbers – police, fire, and rescue agencies; power companies; insurance providers; family, friends and co-workers; etc.
- Learn how to redirect/forward calls from a home phone directly to your wireless number and you will be reachable in case of evacuation. Review your devices owner's manual or contact your service provider for assistance in completing this process.
- Develop with family and friends a systematic evacuation and communications plan that includes what to do, who calls who, where to go and what supplies and items you will take with you. It is important to ensure that this information is kept current.

During a Disaster or Emergency

- During the first 48 hours, unless directed by emergency personnel, limit non-emergency calls to free-up wireless networks for emergency agencies and operations while also conserving battery power on your device.
- Use brief text messages whenever possible rather than voice calls —often text messages get through when wireless networks are overtaxed during a crisis.
- Download to your phone any available applications that can help you stay connected remotely. Weather applications and apps from local news stations can help you learn about weather warnings, outages, evacuations and other pertinent disaster information.
- Connect to social networking sites like Facebook® or Twitter via your phone. Status updates and tweets are a good way to let a large group of people, including family, friends and co-workers, know that you're safe and how to contact you.
- Many devices are now available with global positioning systems (GPS) and map features. These systems and other location-based services on your devices may assist in navigating to safety or share directions to evacuation areas or shelters.